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NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS END CONFERENCE: Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara is flanked at Paris meeting by Denis Healey, left, the British Defense Secretary, and Thomas K. Finletter, the United States representative to the organization.

U.S. Tells NATO Atomic Arms Grow in Europe

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times

PARIS, June 1—The United States assured its North Atlantic allies today that Western nuclear strength in Europe had been increased by 10 per cent since Jan. 1.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said at a meeting of defense ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that by the end of the year the number of nuclear warheads supplied for possible use by NATO forces in Europe would be "100 per cent higher" than in 1961.

The alliance, Mr. McNamara said, has been assured that "the weapons required" by the United States and allied forces "to maintain Europe's "territorial integrity" have been supplied.

The object of his declaration, he said, was to counter a wave of rumors in Europe that the United States was planning the "denuclearization" of the Western alliance by withdrawing nuclear weapons from NATO forces.

The Defense Secretary's statement was made shortly after a two-day meeting of the defense ministers.

A communiqué said "further consideration" should be given a United States proposal, made yesterday, for the establishment of a select committee of four or five alliance powers to plan a more effective nuclear

U.S. Tells NATO A-Power Will Rise in Europe

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strategy and improved communications prior to the use of nuclear weapons.

The French Government, basically hostile to any nuclear tie between European and American defense establishments, will study the proposal, Defense Minister Pierre Messmer said.

His assurance impressed United States officials as a sign of what might prove to be a slightly more flexible attitude on the part of the French. President de Gaulle discussed the proposal with Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville, qualified sources said.

Categorical Rejection Seen

Study by the French does not mean acceptance, diplomats emphasized. They expect that the study period will be relatively short and that the General's rejection will be categorical.

French sources, without waiting for the Gaullist veto, raised these objections to the proposal:

"It does not meet General de Gaulle's 1958 plan for a three power global directorate—the United States, Britain and France—because it is confined to NATO."

"The Americans want West Germany and, presumably, Italy included, but neither is a nuclear power and only nuclear powers should control these weapons."

"The inclusion of West Germany would destroy any hope of an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union."

Mr. McNamara has made it clear that acceptance of the select committee would not end American pressure for some form of mixed-manned nuclear force. France remains fundamentally opposed to such a force.

The French believe, qualified sources said, that the proposal has been made to push them into a corner and show that they are against "anything the rest of NATO favors."

United States officials denied

any connection between the increase in nuclear strength in Europe and what was potentially the most important step taken by the defense ministers: an agreement to eliminate the "fantastic force goals of the past," meaning the military contributions pledged by member nations.

These "fictitious and unrealistic" goals are to be replaced by goals that can be supported by an appropriate allocation of national resources.

The communique noted that the Permanent Council would continue to study "the most rational and economic use of available resources" and would provide forces "designed to deter any aggression and, should deterrence fail, able to react swiftly and effectively to it."

Two Other Gains Discussed

The meeting, United States officials said, was successful in two other respects.

The ministers, while seeking a more efficient defense for Western Europe, have adopted a "more realistic attitude" on the Soviet threat, the Americans said. Estimates of the strength of the Warsaw Pact powers now place their effective forces at about half a million men fewer than before.

The United States also found "relatively little disagreement" among the 15 allies on contingency planning. While acknowledging the conflict with the French over the proper response to Soviet aggression, officials reported basic agreement on measures to meet political and military aggression in Europe.

Erhard's Purpose Defined

The purpose of Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's visit to the United States, according to authoritative West German sources, is to remind Americans by his presence that European problems are crying for solutions and should not be "swept under the carpet" because of

United States commitments elsewhere.

The Chancellor, who received an honorary doctorate of laws from Columbia University yesterday, plans to leave for Washington tomorrow and hopes to confer with President Johnson Friday.

The West German view is that critical European problems cannot be separated from the global problems facing all North Atlantic Treaty Organization members and that the lower priority given to Europe in recent years has only exacerbated these problems.

The most critical European problem, in the German view, is the deterioration of NATO, which is attributed primarily to the quarrels between Washington and Paris.

It is Chancellor Erhard's intention to stress the urgency of the crisis in the alliance when he confers with President Johnson. It was said that while United States and French views about Europe and NATO may be incompatible, Dr. Erhard feels a détente in the relations between Washington and Paris would serve the interests of all.

The German delegation was said to have learned through press reports of Defense Secretary McNamara's proposal to form a nuclear planning com-

mittee. Without taking offense at the lack of consultation, the Germans said they were not now prepared to adopt a position on the proposal's merits but thought the suggestions might serve as a basis for Allied discussion.

Kennan Received by Tito

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, June 1 (AP)—George F. Kennan, former United States Ambassador to Yugoslavia, was received today by President Tito. Mr. Keenan arrived yesterday for a private visit with the Yugoslav leader.